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Sen. Crowell's Measure to Honor Hometown Heroes Receives Senate Approval

JEFFERSON CITY — Legislation inspired by community leaders looking for a way to honor local fallen heroes who have been killed in action in Afghanistan or Iraq and sponsored by Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, received Senate approval yesterday. Senate Bill 84 contains a provision originally proposed by Sen. Crowell, which would establish the “Heroes Way Interstate Interchange Designation Program.”

The Heroes Way Interstate Interchange Designation Program would allow interstate interchanges in Missouri to be named for service members who have given the ultimate sacrifice. The specific interchange would be determined based on the hero's hometown.

“Heroes Way provides a way to memorialize these heroic soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who do not return home to their family and friends,” said Sen. Crowell. “It provides communities throughout Missouri with an opportunity to acknowledge the loss they all feel when one of their own is killed in combat.”

The designation program would allow relatives to submit their loved one's name to the Missouri Department of Transportation for recognition. In order to be eligible for recognition, an individual must have been killed in action during active military duty in Afghanistan or Iraq on or after September 11, 2001, and must have sponsorship from at least one member of the General Assembly. Once an application is approved, two signs would be erected in the North/South or East/West directions at the interstate interchange of the fallen soldier's hometown exit.

Sen. Crowell's measure now moves to the House of Representatives.

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